**Pre-school Play and Learning Newsletter for 18 – 22nd March 2024**

\*Our wonder words this week have been: **Springtime, blossom, buds, stems, germinate, petals, tadpoles, frogspawn\***

**Play and Learning Highlights:**

What a wonderful week of weather for focusing on the change of seasons to Springtime! The children have enjoyed thinking about how we know spring has arrived, what the signs of spring are and finding out about spring flowers, baby animals being born and tadpoles and frogs. (We will hopefully have some to observe before long)

The starfish children have been enjoying the spring weather and planting flowers in our garden that they will be able to care for and watch grow. We have all been planting cress seeds as they germinate quickly and are great for the children to observe daily and care for.

Our creating area had a lovely fragrant bunch of daffodils as inspiration for the children art work this week. We have had so many beautiful daffodil creations!

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**Out & About sessions:** Out & About sessions were held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday this week. The children became spring detectives and searched for signs of spring on the walk to Greenfield gardens where we used petals, fabric and hammers to make pictures and patterns. We spotted wild garlic, primroses, bluebells, daisies, celandines and lots of blackthorn blossom. We also had great fun exploring up through Feadon woods looking for signs of spring. By the stream in the woods the children worked together to build a dam and also enjoyed dropping sticks in the stream. There was lots of problem solving involved in trying to get our sticks to go down the waterfall and not get stuck in the rocks. We also made it all the way up to the look out

 **Sounds and Letters/language focus:** We have continued to work on practising the skill of ‘blending’ and ‘segmenting’ the sounds in cvc words (consonant-vowel-consonant words, e.g. hat, pig, top) with the Flying Fish. The children have enjoyed playing ‘quiz show’ games of the children against the adults in trying to work out what the robot word could be. They have been very competitive!

The Starfish have spent time looking at spring animals and flowers, planting in the garden and planting their cress seeds.

**Ideas to support your child at home:**

* *Make the most of the lovely weather, (whilst we have have it!) and take your child for a walk, or out in the garden, to look for signs of spring. Use the wonder words of the week – blossom, buds, stems, petals to point out things of interest. If they find anything interesting please do bring it in.*
* *Sing the 5 Speckled Frogs song, encouraging your child to put up their fingers to represent the frogs and counting each time one more has jumped into the pool. You could also use everyday items to represent the frogs, e.g. milk bottle tops, sponges. Singing this in the bath with objects would be lots of fun too!*

5 little speckled frogs,

Sat on a speckled log,

Eating a most delicious bug,

Yum, Yum.

One jumped into the pool,

Where it was nice and cool.

Now there are just 4 speckled frogs.

Glug, glug

*(This is our version – yours may have different words!)*